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Letter dated 26 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to inform you that on 25 July 2018, two very large crude carriers, each with a 2-million-barrel capacity, operated by the Saudi National Shipping Company (Bahri) and transporting Saudi Aramco crude oil were attacked by terrorist Houthi militias in the Red Sea. One of the ships sustained minimal damage and no injuries or oil spill has been reported.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia condemns in the strongest terms the continuation of the Houthi militias' terrorist attacks backed by Iran against international maritime trade routes. Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia notes with regret that the Security Council's inaction in the face of blatant violations of its resolutions, in particular the arms embargoes established pursuant to resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015), has allowed Iran to furnish the Houthi terrorist militias with large stockpiles of ballistic missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles and sea mines. The Houthis have used and will continue to use these illegally obtained weapons to threaten the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the stability of the Middle East and the safety of international maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab strait. As a result, in the interest of the safety of ships and their crews and to avoid the risk of oil spill that can spark an environmental disaster, my Government has temporarily halted all oil shipments through the Bab al-Mandab strait with immediate effect.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls for the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions in order to prevent the Houthi militias' use of the Hudaydah seaport as a launch pad for their numerous terrorist operations, which undermine the efforts that the Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, is exerting to reach a peaceful solution. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also calls for the prevention of the smuggling of additional weapons to the Houthis, and to hold violators of the arms embargo accountable. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia furthermore calls for the Security Council to take urgent measures to address the stockpile of Houthi weapons and to disarm this terrorist militia, in order to prevent the escalation of these attacks which raise regional tensions and raise the risks of a broader regional confrontation.

Finally, my delegation requests for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council, and informs you that a copy of the present letter will be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

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